

COUNTY COUNCIL

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

Coun. Scott had no particular fault to find with the bill, but he did not altogether approve of the action of the chairman of the Board of Health. The chairman when he appointed a man for guard duty should have given him definite instructions to work upon. In one case he knew of a patient, supposed to be under quarantine, who frequently came out and sat down at the side of the road, so that a person driving past could touch him with a whip. Some of the accounts as far as he could tell were reasonable enough, particularly the charges made for ferrying. He did not think the chairman and his assistants had given definite instructions as to what expenditure should have been incurred.

Coun. Brooks was at a loss to know why the guards had gone to Hawkeshaw for goods for the Southampton families, when they could have been procured goods right in the parish. He knew of a case, where two families, composed of sixteen persons, were kept in quarantines twenty four hours longer than they should have been. The occupants of these two houses were not allowed to communicate with one another, but he was credibly informed, made a practice of meeting on a shady side hill out of sight, and having a good time together.

Coun. Simmons thought it strange that one family of two persons, according to the accounts, used more groceries in the same time than another and much larger family.

Coun. Fawcett said he understood from Dr. Owens that when the disease broke out in the Quigg family on the Southampton side of the river, they continued purchasing the groceries at Hawkeshaw because they thought they would be able to confine the disease to the one house, and did not think it worth while to assume the risk of going to another store. When the cases increased in number there was no charge made.

The chairman, at the request of Coun. McMullen, read over a number of the items in the accounts, thus creating considerable amusement. The list included such articles of household necessity as flour, salmon, strawberries, tobacco, clay-pipes, top shirts, hose, brooms, eggs, hay, butter, corsets, etc.

Coun. McMullen said it looked to him as if the bill was considerable of a fraud, and that the quarantined people had been having a pretty good time of it. He did not think the county had any right to supply people supposed to have smallpox with such articles as tobacco, pipes, hay, etc. He was not familiar with the prices paid, but thought that the bill would stand some cutting.

Coun. Copley would like to hear an opinion as to whether it was right that the bills should be paid by the county or parish.

Coun. McManiman said the bills showed that the quarantined people had been supplied with a good many luxuries—more than the people in his section of the country were in the habit of using. Coun. Merrill thought it no more than right that people when sick should be supplied with a few luxuries out of the man of the Board of Health might have exercised a little more care in looking after the guards employed to force quarantine. He might have supplied them with a list of the articles that they were entitled to purchase, and then trouble would have been avoided.

A SCOTT ACT INSPECTOR.

Coun. Rowley said that a temperance delegation had asked to be heard before the council and he would move that the request be granted. Coun. Estey seconded the motion and it was put and carried.

Rev. W. R. Robinson of Gibson then addressed the council, on behalf of certain temperance ratepayers, urging that a Scott Act inspector be appointed for the county. The Canada Temperance Act was upon the statute books and he and those acting with him were of the opinion that it should be either enforced or repealed. He had faith in the law and was thoroughly satisfied that it was effective if properly enforced. He was not present to ask the council to tax the people, but only to appoint an inspector, whose salary would be paid out of the amount of fines collected. He was well aware that liquor was being openly sold in many parts of the county in violation of the law, and his sale should be stopped. It was said that all the liquor in the county was sold in Fredericton. Although the city was a big sinner in that direction, the statement was not true. There were people living on the border, who being prevented by law from selling liquor in the United States erected shanties in York county and carried on their nefarious business without restraint.

If an inspector was appointed, the desire was that he should have his expenses in addition to a salary of \$500, to be paid out of the fines collected through the enforcement of the act. He would guarantee that if the appointment was made there would be no additional expense put on the county, and that the inspector would resign at the end of the year if the council so desired. After returning thanks for the courteous hearing given him, the rev. gentleman resumed his seat.

Coun. McFarlane wanted to know if the delegation wished the council to name a man for the position, or whether they would suggest somebody.

Rev. Mr. Robinson replied that the temperance people would like to have the position go to Richard Harvey of Gibson, a man who had already rendered good service in assisting to enforce the act.

Coun. McManiman said that he was not now engaged in selling liquor, though at one time he had been. He had lately gone out of the business, and was now as good a temperance man as there was at the board. He then dealt with the record of previous Scott Act inspectors—a record of failure in most cases—and also told of the failure of the temperance people to enforce the law by means of paid informers. He was decidedly opposed to the appointment of an inspector, and argued strongly against such a step being taken. He cited the gunpowder plot in support of his argument, and reminded the council that they should not do anything to create such a condition of affairs in this country.

Rev. J. J. Colter, on being asked to speak, said that there were free institutions in this country, purchased by the blood of our ancestors, and we could only continue to have these institutions by enforcing our laws. It was useless to have a law on our statute books if it was not enforced. He and others associated with him, had spent their own means in enforcing the Scott Act, and he thought that as citizens who paid their share of taxes, they should not be compelled to do this. He hoped that the council would accede to their wishes and appoint an inspector.

On motion of Coun. McMullen, seconded by Coun. Merrill, consideration of the matter was deferred until the Board of Health accounts had been disposed of. Causus. Cliff, Brooks, and Merrill, left the chamber at this stage to meet with the administration of justice committee of the city and adjourned accounts.

BACK TO SMALLPOX.

Coun. Fawcett moved seconded by Coun. Burden, that Fox & Allen's bill amounting to \$644, be paid.

Coun. McMullen, did not think that the account should be paid in full.

Coun. Scott was of opinion that so long as Dr. Mallin continued as chairman they would have an expensive Board of Health.

Coun. Robison said the law provided that the money could be collected from those who were able to pay for supplies provided for them by the Board of Health.

Coun. Fawcett said that several Southampton men, who obtained supplies from Fox and Allen, were authorized to do so by the Board of Health. Had they been given to understand that the goods were to be paid for out of their own pockets, they might have been more economical. As it was now he did not think they should be made to pay.

At this stage the secretary-treasurer, by request, read extracts from the Health Act for the benefit of the council.

Coun. Rowley thought that in view of the fact that the government was to pay half the bills, and the county had power to demand a refund from families able to pay their own expenses, a good deal of time was being wasted over the report.

The other accounts were read over and it was shown that the Board of Health had applied the pruning knife indiscriminately. For instance a bill from Mrs. Taylor for nursing amounting to over \$900, was allowed at \$542.14, and one of \$227.55 from LeBaron R. Bull for doing guard duty, was whittled down to \$82.90. Geo. Y. Dibble's bill of \$28.90 for drugs, etc., was allowed in full, but one from Dr. Owens, \$782.92, was reduced to \$500, and Dr. Fisher's bill of \$243, for services and expenses in connection with the Penniac case, was reduced \$159.

Coun. Estey said that as the Board of Health had apparently exercised economy and had met the wishes of the council and had met the wishes of the council reducing many of the bills, there was nothing for the committee to do but to recommend the adoption of the report. He would move that it be adopted as a whole. Coun. Rowley seconded the motion.

Coun. McMullen said that the council in adopting the report, should make some recommendation that would prevent people in future from rendering bills for pay on T. D. pipes, brandly longnecks etc. for smallpox patients. He would not oppose Coun. Estey's motion.

The resolution that the Board of Health

report be adopted, and that bills attached to the same amounting to \$2,690.55 be paid, was unanimously adopted, after which the council adjourned until Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The council met at ten o'clock with the warden in the chair and all present except Couns. Green, Rowley and Moffat. On motion of Coun. Young it was ordered that the sum of fifty dollars be assessed on pound district No. 2 St. Mary's.

The list of parish officers for Stanley, was confirmed on motion of Coun. McManiman.

Coun. McManiman submitted draft of a bye-law prohibiting the running at large of cattle in district No. 2 parish of Stanley, which was adopted.

On motion of Coun. McFarlane a resolution amending Division No. 5 of the highway divisions in the parish of Douglas was adopted.

The secretary-treasurer in reply to Coun. Fawcett said that no steps had as yet been taken to extend the franchise. He said the reason it was not taken up was that the government intended passing a general act for the province.

The list of parish officers for Kingsclear was confirmed on motion of Coun. Murray, and the sum of \$10 was ordered to be assessed to pay Jonathan Sims for his services as commissioner of highways.

Coun. Cliff for the administration of Justice Committee reported that the expenditure for the year was \$2,582.76, of which amount the city of Fredericton was to pay one-third or \$860.22. A check for the amount would be forthcoming after the next meeting of the city council. The report was unanimously adopted.

Coun. McMullen complained of the dog nuisance and strongly urged that the law imposing a tax on dogs should be enforced. On many farms throughout the country more than one dog was kept, and he thought this would not be the case if a tax had to be paid.

After a few remarks on the subject by Couns. Scott and Murray a resolution by Coun. McMullen, that the secretary-treasurer instruct the assessors to have the law enforced, was unanimously adopted.

Coun. Scott, for the committee appointed to look into the school tax question, reported as follows:

Your committee appointed to enquire into the question of assessment for school purposes, recommend that the warden be requested to take the necessary steps to have the provisions of the School Act in reference to the assessment for schools in Fredericton and York county enforced."

The report, which was signed by Alfred Rowley, John Scott, A. E. Cliff and F. St. J. Bliss, was unanimously adopted.

The list of parish offices for Bright was confirmed, and the following sums were ordered to be assessed on the parish: support of poor, \$300; commissioner of highways, \$75; parish indebtedness, \$160; parish clerk, \$4; district clerk, \$4; room for parish elections, \$4.

The list of parish officers for Canterbury was confirmed on motion of Coun. Jamieson.

On motion of Coun. Robison council took recess to allow the public accounts committee to meet.

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Best combination, two or more persons Band in attendance.....10 00
Doors open at 7.30. No skaters allowed on ice until 8 o'clock.
Admission to skaters and spectators 25c.
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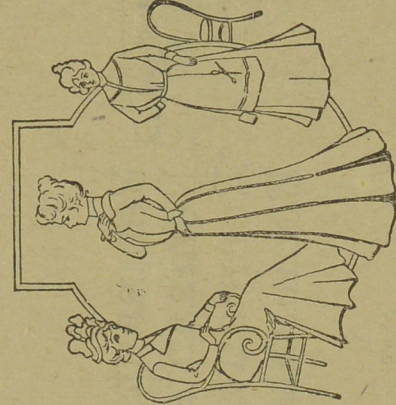
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By order of the Board of Directors,
J. W. SPUDEN,
Manager
Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 27, 1902. 3d2w